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LB 543

SEN. VENDITTE: Question number two then Mr. President. The courts have ruled that it would be up to the Board of Regents to determine how many abortions would be performed at the University relative to a balanced curriculum. Have the Board of Regents decided how many abortions should be permitted at the University Medical Center?

PRESIDENT: Can anyone furnish that information to Senator Venditte?

SENATOR VENDITTE: Well, again Mr. President, I guess the concerns that I have are this.....

PRESIDENT: Senator Shirley Marsh might have some information on that. Could you enlighten Senator Venditte, Senator Marsh?

SENATOR MARSH: I would be happy to try and answer his question. It is my understanding Senator Venditte that the Board of Regents does not only decide how many but they don't decide how many hysterectomies, how many vasectomies, how many tonsillectomies, how many other procedures ahead of time. They have had some general guidelines in the area relating to abortion and they have not had guidelines in any other area. They do have some in this particular area.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Those kinds of operations do not take lives Senator. Never-the-less Mr. President, I guess the concern that I continue to have is simply this. How can a 49% increase in the number of abortions last year over 1975 be considered balanced curriculum? Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Orval Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Shirley Marsh a question. I think that she could answer it. Senator Marsh, I know that you are going to answer it. When you hire a doctor who teaches at the university, he also performs operations at the Luthrean Hospital, the Methodist Hospital and so forth around wherever his patients happen to be, he does not work exclusively for the University, does he?

SENATOR MARSH: There are some that work exclusively for the University Senator Keyes. Those are the staff members who are paid on staff. The volunteer staff members who do not...excuse me Senator Keyes, the volunteer staff members who volunteer their time and services at the University Hospital also go to other hospitals, but they are not paid by state dollars on a salary basis.

SENATOR KEYES: If a person goes in to have his tonsils out, and he has insurance, the hospitals will perform the operation and charge him for it. Is that right?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes sir. And, also if they have an abortion....

SENATOR KEYES: Wait, don't answer the question before I get it. If you go in there and have an abortion and you have insurance it will be paid for, and the doctors will perform the service.

SENATOR MARSH: Yes sir.

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